

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: POLICY ISSUES RELATED TO FULL U.S. MEMBERSHIP
IN NEA

REFS: OECD PARIS' 852; 1042; 2019 AND 2576

1. AS MISSION KNOWS, WE HAVE BEEN REVIEWING SUBJECT ISSUE
PRIOR TO BEGINNING DISCUSSIONS WITH WILLIAMS AND OTHERS
ON DETAILS OF ENTRY. THIS REVIEW HAS IDENTIFIED NUMBER
OF POINTS WHICH WE CONSIDER IMPORTANT TO U.S. INTERESTS
AND ON WHICH WE WILL SEEK EXPLICIT AGREEMENT WITH OTHER
KEY NEA COUNTRIES AND SECRETARIAT. WE ARE PROVIDING
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MISSION WITH OUR VIEWS FOR ITS BACKGROUND AND USE, AS

APPROPRIATE, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS.

2. IT IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE THAT FULL U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN NEA DOES NOT DETRACT FROM MOMENTUM OF OUR EFFORTS IN IEA R&D COMMITTEE OR GIVE APPEARANCE THAT WE ARE WEAKENING U.S. POSITION OF HAVING IEA AS PRINCIPAL FORUM FOR COOPERATION IN ENERGY MATTERS WITH OTHER IEA COUNTRIES. WE INTEND TO MAINTAIN AND EVEN EXPAND NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES WITH IEA AND TO HAVE EXISTING AND FUTURE IEA WORKING GROUPS IN THIS AREA CONTINUE TO PROVIDE (A) POLICY DIRECTION, (B) GUIDANCE ON OVERALL APPROACH AND (C) BASIC

PLANNING IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FIELD. THIS APPLIES NOT ONLY TO R&D BUT ALSO TO ASSESSMENTS OF TYPE PERFORMED BY SEUS. WE THEREFORE SEE THE NEA AS ASSUMING THE ROLE OF LEAD AGENCY FOR IEA IN AREAS WHERE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH ORGANIZATIONS AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE FIELD OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT.

3. WE ARE TROUBLED, HOWEVER, BY NEA'S FAILURE TO EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZE IEA LEAD IN THIS INSTANCE AND EXPECT IN FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS TO SEEK WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF RESPECTIVE ROLES.

4. WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAKE IEA R&D ACTIVITIES HARDWARE-ORIENTED AND NOT LET R&D COMMITTEE CONTENT ITSELF WITH INFORMATION EXCHANGE ROLE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ACTIVELY PRESS THIS POSITION WHEREVER FEASIBLE. NEA, ON THE OTHER HAND, DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE SEEKING OUT PROJECT MANAGEMENT-TYPE ACTIVITIES AND HAS FOCUSED ATTENTION ON AND SEEMS CONTENT WITH "BUSINESS-AS-USUAL" MEETINGS, STUDIES, ETC. IN ORDER TO HAVE NEA PLAY EFFECTIVE ROLE AS LEAD AGENCY FOR KEY IEA NUCLEAR PROGRAMS SOME SHIFT WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN NEA STAFF COMPETENCE AND PROGRAM ORIENTATION. SINCE NEA 1976 BUDGET DOCUMENT AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL POSITIONS DO NOT APPEAR TO RECOGNIZE CHANGED NATURE OF IEA-RELATED ASSIGNMENTS, WE URGE REVISIONS TO THESE PLANNING DOCUMENTS BE MADE. AGAIN, DUE TO PAST MISUNDERSTANDING WITH SECRETARIAT IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE

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DESIRABLE TO HAVE SOME FORM OF WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF ANY UNDERSTANDINGS RELATED TO NATURE OF PROGRAMS OR STAFF.

5. WE AGREE WITH MISSION'S ASSESSMENT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE TO NOMINATE U.S. CANDIDATE FOR TOP NEA POSITION. IT WOULD ALSO APPEAR FROM SOUNDINGS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL 1042 THAT SECRETARIAT AND NEA MEMBER COUNTRY

SUPPORT FOR WILLIAMS' PROMOTION TO THIS POSITION IS SUFFICIENTLY STRONG THAT WE SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE OTHER CANDIDATES, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED SOMEONE WITH FRESH APPROACH. IN OUR VIEW, HOWEVER, IT NOW BECOMES MOST IMPORTANT TO HAVE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL SLOT FILLED BY AMERICAN SENSITIVE TO U.S. CONCERNS WHO CAN DRAW ON STRONG PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES TO ASSURE U.S. VIEWS WILL BEGIN TO BE REFLECTED IN PROGRAM ORIENTATION. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT DEPUTY MUST HAVE SOME POLICY RESPONSIBILITY (SHARED WITH DIRECTOR). FINALLY, WE SEE NEED FOR

IEA R&D STAFF TO HAVE COMPETENCE IN NUCLEAR AREA TO SUPPORT ITS POLICY ROLE AND WE WOULD HOPE OTHER COUNTRIES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS WILL RECOGNIZE THIS NEED IN ADDITION TO EMPHASIS ON NON-NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES AS WELL.

7. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES BROUGHT TO NEA BY FULL U.S. MEMBERSHIP SHOULD SUPPORT NEW PROGRAMS WHEREVER POSSIBLE. U.S. R&D AGENCIES ARE BEING ASKED TO REVIEW CURRENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE NEA ACTIVITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS.

8. WE INTEND TO APPROACH KEY IEA COUNTRIES (UK, FRG, JAPAN, ITALY) ON ISSUES OUTLINED PARAGRAPHS 2 - 7 AND PANEL ON QUESTIONS RELATED TO NEA PROGRAMS AND (IF CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE) STAFFING. KISSINGER

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